GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:430
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2001
PARTICIPATION OF PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS IN CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the Centrally Sponsored Projects are being executed from the capitals of the States even after delegating more powers to Panchayati Raj Institutions as reported in the `Dainik Jagran`, New Delhi dated August 13, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Union Government to ensure participation of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the execution of Centrally Sponsored Projects?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M VENKAIAH NAIDU)

(a), (b) & (c):- A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.430 due for answer on 17/04/2001

1. As per Article 243 (G) of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, the States are required to devolve adequate powers and responsibilities upon the Panchayati Raj Institutions(PRIs) to enable them to function effectively as institutions of local self-government. The responsibility for preparation of Plans for economic development and social justice and implementation in relation to the 29 Subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution is also entrusted to the PRIs. The States/UTs have been urged to devolve functions, functionaries and funds upon the PRIs for planning and implementing schemes in the relevant sectors.

2. In the Mid Term Appraisal of the Ninth Five Year Plan, the Planning Commission observed that in reality the involvement of PRIs with respect to the 29 Items has been minimal in most States/UTs and that the State Governments/Central Ministries, except the Ministry of Rural Development, have not taken concrete steps to integrate PRIs in the strategy of planning and implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes(CSSs) under their purview.

3. The Planning Commission have indicated that a review of implementation of CSSs of the Departments of Health and Family Welfare, the Department of Education and the Ministry of Environment and Forests shows that parallel organisations and delivery systems like the District Health and Family Welfare Society, Village Education Committees (VECs) Mahila Sangh, Lok Jumbish Parishads and Joint Forest Management (JFM) Committeeshave emerged in which no role has been assigned to Panchayats and that formal structures have yet to be put in place to involve PRIs in the implementation of schemes undertaken by parallel organisations. Several CSSs are also being implemented exclusively through NGOs with little role for Panchayats.

4. Panchayati Raj being a State subject, the State Legislatures are required to endow the Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government. The Central Government have been requesting the States/UTs as also the Central Ministries to provide for an important role to Panchayats in the implementation of all Schemes, keeping in view the Constitutional mandate contained in Article 243G and Schedule-XI of the Constitution.